

In the Claims:

Set forth below is the entire set of pending claims.

- 1 1. (Original) A consumable order-assistance system for
2 computer peripheral devices, comprising:
3 a personal computer having a messaging system;
4 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging
5 system;
6 a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a
7 seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device; and
8 a user interaction site configured to receive a notification from the
9 computer peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a
10 consumable;
11 wherein the user interaction site is provided within one of: a single-
12 connection environment as an end user interface; an unmanaged network
13 environment as a workgroup administrator interface; and a server-based
14 centralized network environment as a centralized system administrator interface.
- 1 2. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 connected with a bus, and wherein the user interaction site comprises a printer
4 driver of the personal computer provided within a single-connection
5 environment.
- 1 3. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 provided within an unmanaged network environment, the user interaction site
4 comprises an embedded web server of the computer peripheral device, and the
5 embedded web server generates and forwards a message to a user at the
6 personal computer to prompt ordering of a consumable.

1 4. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the personal computer and the computer peripheral device are
3 provided within a network environment having a central server, the user
4 interaction site comprises a network administrator personal computer
5 communicating with the server, and a network management application provided
6 on the server generates and forwards a message to a network administrator.

1 5. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a centralized administrator
3 interface comprising a centralized purchaser, and wherein a centralized order-
4 assistance tool of a network server delivers a notification to the centralized
5 purchaser of a need to order a consumable.

1 6. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface of the personal
3 computer.

1 7. (Original) The consumable order-assistance system of claim
2 1 wherein the user interaction site comprises a user interface for facilitating user
3 access to the computer peripheral device to receive notification of a need to
4 order a consumable for the computer peripheral device.

1 8. (Original) A computer-implemented self-adjusting
2 consumable order-assistance system which implements a program in which
3 consumable components of computer peripheral devices are replenished, the
4 system comprising:

5 a personal computer having a messaging system;

6 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging
7 system;

8 a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a
9 reseller of a consumable; and

10 a user interface comprising an end user interaction interface, a
11 workgroup administrator interface, or a centralized system administrator
12 interface, the end user interaction interface including the personal computer
13 configurable for interaction by a user that is exchanging information with a
14 computer peripheral device associated with the personal computer, the
15 workgroup administrator interface operative to manage one computer peripheral
16 device at a time, and the centralized system administrator interface
17 communicating with a server of a centralized network environment.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user
2 interaction system comprises a printer driver of the personal computer.

1 10. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the workgroup
2 administrator interface comprises an embedded web server of the computer
3 peripheral device.

1 11. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the centralized
2 system administrator interface comprises a network management application
3 usable by a network administrator.

1 12. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the end user
2 interaction system is provided within a single-connection environment
3 comprising the personal computer communicating with the computer peripheral
4 device via a bus, and wherein a single user has dedicated access to the personal
5 computer.

1 13. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the workgroup
2 administrative interface comprises an embedded web server within the computer
3 peripheral device, and wherein the embedded web server comprises an interface
4 for the order-assistance system.

1 14. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the centralized
2 system administrator interface comprises a centralized order-assistance tool, and
3 wherein the centralized order-assistance tool is provided within a centralized
4 network environment having a server.

1 15. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the computer
2 peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, the personal computer
3 and the computer peripheral device are provided within an unmanaged network
4 environment, and the embedded web server initiates ordering of a consumable in
5 response to a detected need to replenish the consumable.

1 16. (Original) A method of providing order assistance,
2 comprising:
3 providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having
4 a communication link with a reseller of a consumable, a messaging system
5 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer,
6 and a user interaction site;

7 determining an environment in which the computer peripheral
8 device and the personal computer are provided by detecting the presence of a
9 parallel cable or the presence of a network environment;

10 for the case where the presence of a network environment is
11 detected, further broadcasting a discovery protocol to detect the presence of a
12 centralized order-assistance solution; and

13 based on the determined environment, providing the user
14 interaction site in the form of: a user interface when the network environment
15 comprises a single-connection environment; an embedded web server when the
16 network environment comprises an unmanaged network environment; and a

17 centralized system administrator interface when the network environment
18 comprises a server-based, centralized network environment.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein, when the
2 presence of a parallel cable is detected, the network environment is determined
3 to be a single-connection environment, the computer peripheral device interacts
4 at an end user level.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the network
2 environment comprises a single-connection environment, the user interface site
3 comprises an interface to a consumable order assistance computer program
4 resident on the personal computer, and the program provides an order location
5 to a user for purchasing a consumable.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the computer
2 peripheral device comprises an embedded web server, the network environment
3 comprises an unmanaged network environment, and the embedded web server
4 initiates ordering of a consumable in response to a detected need to replenish
5 the consumable.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the personal
2 computer comprises a maintainer computer, the network environment comprises
3 a managed, centralized network environment having a server, and the server
4 sends a notification to the maintainer computer of a need to order a consumable.